

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 /072 W

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R 171340Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0752

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

USEUCOM

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS CY

SUBJ: MAKARIOS' FIRST WEEK

REF: NICOSIA 4472

1. SUMMARY: SINCE RETURN, ARCHBISHOP HAS LOWERED HIS PUBLIC PROFILE, CONSULTED AT LENGTH WITH LEADERSHIP GROUPS, BUT HAS YET TO ANNOUNCE DECISIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES SUCH AS NEW GOC, CLERIDES' NEGOTIATING BRIEF, CHURCH DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FIRST WEEK SINCE RETURN TO ISLAND, MAKARIOS HAS PROJECTED MUCH LOWER PROFILE THAN OVERWHELMING ONE HE CREATED PRIOR TO COUP. HE GIVES IMPRESSION OF BEING SUBDUED, EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS. HE APPEARS TO HAVE AGED MARKEDLY SINCE JULY.

3. ARCHBISHOP QUICKLY MADE HANDFUL OF HIGH-PUBLICITY, LOW-CONFIDENTIAL

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RISK MOVES AFTER RETURN: VISITS TO REFUGEE CAMPS AND HOSPITAL,

WALK-THROUGH OF CHARRED SHELL OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE. HE THEN RECEDED FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

4. MAKARIOS HAS MET DIPLOMATIC CORPS EN MASSE AND SEPARATELY. HE HAS RECEIVED ASSORTED DELEGATIONS OF REFUGEES. HE HAS CLOSETED LONG HOURS WITH CLERIDES, OTHER LEADERS.

5. RIGHTIST CAMP, STILL SOBERED BY SUMMER'S TRAUMA, RETAINS HOPE FOR COLLABORATION WITH MAKARIOS, SHOWS NO DESIRE TO TAKE UP CUDGELS AGAINST HIM. SO-CALLED PROVOCATIONS (REFTEL) REMAIN FEW, MINOR, AND -- SO FAR -- HAVE ELICITED NO REACTION.

6. COMMENT: MAKARIOS APPEARS TO BE CAREFULLY, DELIBERATELY MOVING TO REIMPOSE CONTROL, TAKING PAINS TO AVOID EITHER PROVOKING FORMER OPPONENTS OR STOKING POPULAR HOPES FOR MIRACLE. RIGHTIST QUIESCENCE, GRANT OF INDEFINITE "CREDIT OF TIME" WORK TO HIS ADVANTAGE. MAKARIOS HAS YET TO ANNOUNCE DECISIONS ON MAJOR PENDING ISSUES SUCH AS (A) FORMATION OF NEW GOC (CONSENSUS IS THAT HE WILL CREATE KIND OF "NATIONAL UNITY" GOVERNMENT); (B) NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLERIDES; (C) COMPOSING OF CHURCH DISPUTE (SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT ANTHIMOS, YENNADIOS DICKERING WITH ARCHBISHOP). END COMMENT. CRAWFORD

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